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STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE #4

(Management of Productive, Life-Sustaining Natural Resources Strengthened)

200 more Mindanao barangays to get electricity

(Source: MindaNews Online – 9/24/05)

GENERAL SANTOS CITY – Close to 200 remote villages in Mindanao will have electricity in the next four years though a US\$10-million assistance from the United States Agency for International Development, Recto Doctor, Alliance for Mindanao Off-grid Renewable Energy (AMORE) Area-3 manager, said.

The electrification program aims to provide electricity to at least 400 remote war-torn areas in Mindanao.

Amore has implemented the project in 227 barangays in Sultan Kudarat, Davao, Zamboanga Sibugay, Zamboanga del Sur, Zamboanga City, Tawi-tawi, Basilan, Sulu and Maguindanao.

Amore's electrification project in Mindanao started in February 2002 with an original budget of about \$8 million from USAID. It received an additional funding of \$10 million for a second phase which will run until 2009.

Doctor said the target communities may choose between solar-powered panels and microhydro power system.

He said community members will undergo technical trainings on the maintenance of the electric system after the project ends.

AMORE is working with Mirant Philippines and Winrock International, an international non-profit organization based in the United States focusing on rural development and the environment.

Community members have organized themselves into Barangay Renewable Energy and Community Development Associations to enable them to manage the project and start livelihood ventures, Doctor said.

"The electricity program aims to uplift the communities from poverty," he said.
(MindaNews)